

# THE POLISH REVIEW

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POLAND

NEW YORK, N. Y.

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in Poland

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Polish Wac meets Amer-  
ican defense worker at  
the Joshua Hendy Iron-  
works, Sunnysdale, Cali-  
fornia.

U.S. Army Signal Corps  
Photo





# **Broadcast by Jan Kwapinski, Vice-Premier and Minister of Commerce, Industry and Shipping of the Republic of Poland**

"Poland stands in the heart of the battle for freedom and independence. The Polish Nation and, in particular, the Underground army is at this moment carrying on open fighting with the German invader directed by the government in London and the Polish Underground authorities in collaboration with the Council of National Unity, as representative of the principal political trends in Poland.

"Today, on the eve of the final battle for liberation, we should review the work accomplished by the Polish Government in London towards the reconstruction of political, social and economic life in free Poland.

"All of us, both in Poland in dangerous posts in the Underground State, and here in London have executed tasks during the last five years.

"The principles guiding this work have repeatedly been proclaimed in declarations by the government and leading political elements in Poland as follows: In program announcements made by Sikorski, December 18, 1939, and February 24, 1942, in the declaration of agreement between political parties in Poland August 15, 1943, in programs issued by the Underground authorities, declaration made by the Court of National Unity in Poland March 15, 1944, and in many broadcasts to Poland by members of the Polish Government.

"The chief place in our work has been occupied by the question of creating such political conditions as would assure a full and unhampered freedom in the spirit of true democracy.

"We have prepared a most democratic electoral law decree, which based on the experiences of our last twenty years, will assure free and clean elections in a manner even better than the election law of August, 1922. Elections to legislative bodies carried out on this basis will provide full possibilities for the enactment of a new constitution in the spirit of a true democracy as announced by Premier Mikolajczyk in his first speech. A political group which is part of the government has for long years fought for this change. Well organized local government elections will be carried out on the same basis.

"We have prepared a law which will ensure all citizens of the Republic universal education at all

stages and the possibility of attaining the highest level of culture.

"Our chief task in the social and economic sphere will be the reconstruction of an agricultural system. We have prepared a basis for this reconstruction of an agricultural system. We have prepared a basis for this new construction which provides that the State take over property and estates over 50 hectares (120 acres) in order to reconstruct an agricultural system.

"All land taken over by the State will be assigned for the purpose of parcellation and agricultural improvement. Forests will be national property with the exception of common lands and those belonging to local authorities.

"We have drawn up plans for the State to take over key industries and factories from German hands. An industrial self-government will be called into being.

"In the social sphere, drafts have been prepared for laws dealing with insurance for all workers in town and country and the safeguarding of self-government to the insured man.

"The government has paid great care to the question of postwar relief for the war-ravaged population of Poland in understanding with Allied governments and international institutions dealing with questions of relief and rehabilitation.

"Our aim is to ensure that the Polish people should be master on their own land and should so shape its life that poverty and fear of want in the future should vanish once and for all from Polish soil and that prosperity should be assured to the largest possible number of Polish citizens.

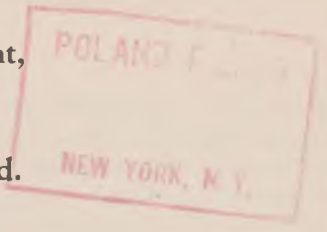
"We will settle our own affairs ourselves. We do not interfere in the internal life of other nations, nor do we wish them to interfere in ours—directly or indirectly.

"Free Poland will be strong and independent, if she is founded on the effort and labor of a whole people and the conscious and collective will of all her citizens.

"Poland must be free. And this freedom means the freedom of all her citizens and cooperation on an equal footing with the United Nations today fighting together for a better world."

O Lord, Thou hast to Poland lent Thy might,  
 And with a Father's strong, protecting hand  
 Hast given fame and all its glory bright,  
 And through long ages saved our fatherland.  
 We chant at Thy altars our humble strain,  
 O Lord, make the land of our love free again!

—Polish National Hymn of Prayer



## AGRARIAN REFORM IN POLAND

by MICHAL PANKIEWICZ, former deputy in the Polish Sejm

POLAND is an agricultural country with a large peasant population. Having regained her independence in 1918, she set about introducing much needed agrarian reforms. These were being accomplished peaceably when the German attack of 1939 destroyed what patience and wisdom had built.

However, Poland must be given credit for the fact that already a century and a half ago she made determined efforts to improve the lot of the peasants. Indeed, one of the causes of the partition of Poland was the superiority of her peasants' living conditions over those in Russia and the attempts by many outstanding Polish patriots to ameliorate the economic and political situation of the peasants. For instance, Catherine II's powerful lover, Potemkin, sought to devise methods of preventing Russian peasants from fleeing to Polish soil. He collected all Polish publications on the peasant question and forwarded them to Catherine. The Russian Riabinin wrote in 1911 that Russian peasants had emigrated to Poland en masse because they found better living conditions there.

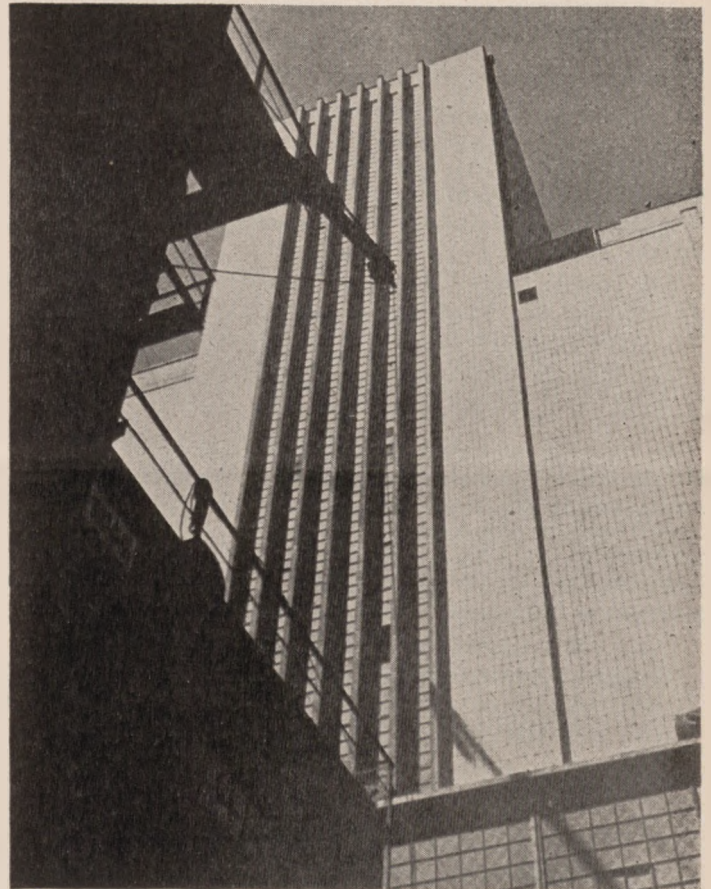
Small wonder then that the Constitution of the Third of May which placed the Polish peasant under the protection of the law, evoked definite displeasure among Czarist statesmen. Bulhakov, Russian Ambassador in Warsaw, wrote to the Russian envoy in Vienna on July 17, 1792, that the framers of the Constitution "virtually destroyed the gentry, which constitutes the chief foundation of the Commonwealth, and on the other hand elevated the townspeople and were ready to declare all peasants free." And on November 25, 1794 Count Bezborodko wrote to the Russian Ambassador in Warsaw: "The freedom of the (Polish) peasants threatens to incite our neighboring population, which speaks almost the same language and has similar habits . . . These considerations, among others, influenced the decision to destroy Poland and divide her land."

In the light of these documents Catherine II's decree of May 15, 1792, ordering General Krechelnikov to occupy Lithuania "so that the boundaries of the Russian state may be protected from the rumors of liberation of Polish peasants" is all the more significant.

Having perpetrated the partition of Poland, the aggressors were not in the least concerned about raising the economic level of the stolen lands, or about the enlightenment of the people living on them.

All the Polish insurrections that followed, on the other hand, promised to improve the lot of the peasants or to free them completely. It was the Insurrection of 1863 that forced the Czarist government to grant the Polish peasants land in an effort to divert them from the Insurrection.

Thanks to the development of industry in Germany after 1870, German-held Poznan and Pomorze automatically



A grain elevator in Poland.

reaped some of the economic benefits of industrialization. The situation of the peasant population in Austrian- and Russian-held Poland however was difficult and often downright hopeless.

In his memoirs *From Serfdom to Self-Government* Jan Slonka, for many years mayor of the village of Dzikow in Southern Poland, gives a graphic description of life in a Polish village under Austrian rule. Up to about 1860, villagers in Galicia lighted a fire by means of flint and tinder, used practically no iron, and lived in huts without chimneys. Hunger was common and the season between early spring and the harvest was one of semi-starvation.

Things took a turn for the better when emigration began. In the last decade preceding World War I, emigration from Poland assumed such proportions that it absorbed the natural population increase.

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# AGRARIAN REFORM IN POLAND

(Continued from page 3)

Having regained her independence, Poland found herself in a difficult position. The countries of Europe and America had closed their doors to mass immigration. Ruined by six years of war, Poland had, in addition to her normal tasks of reconstruction and government, to remedy the century-long neglect of the aggressors and to cure the many ills brought about by the economic policy of the partitioning Powers.

Beyond doubt the most important task was to rebuild the agrarian system by

- (1) breaking up large holdings among peasants with little or no land,
- (2) abolishing so-called servitude privileges,
- (3) reclaiming swampland and wasteland,
- (4) consolidating patchwork peasant holdings,
- (5) improving education in general and agricultural education in particular.

## BREAKING UP LARGE HOLDINGS

Contrary to popular belief in America, Poland is not a country of large landholders. After the peasants were freed from serfdom in the 19th century, and especially when breadwinning emigration to America and for seasonal work to Germany began, the large Polish holdings rapidly began to shrink.

The land hunger of the Polish peasants was so great and the influx of cash from relatives abroad so heavy that prices rose rapidly, and before World War I, were out of all relation to possible income, in some counties reaching 400 dollars an acre. In these conditions large land holdings melted like snow.

As a result of this spontaneous process of parcellation, Poland was being converted into a country of small holdings. According to the first Polish census of 1921 there were 30,079 holdings of more than 50 hectares (one hectare is equal to 2.5 acres), covering a total area of 14,344,057 hectares. Once free, the Polish government and people devoted much attention to the question of agrarian reform.

Only a few months after the first Sejm met on July 10, 1919, an agrarian reform law was passed. To accelerate the reform, a law of December 28, 1925, provided that at least 500,000 acres were to be parcelled out every year among small farmers.

The second and latest census of free Poland in 1931 showed a further important decrease in the large landed estates. Out of a total area of 37,897,000 hectares, only 25.8% belonged to owners who had more than 50 hectares. The corresponding figure in 1921 had been 47.2%.

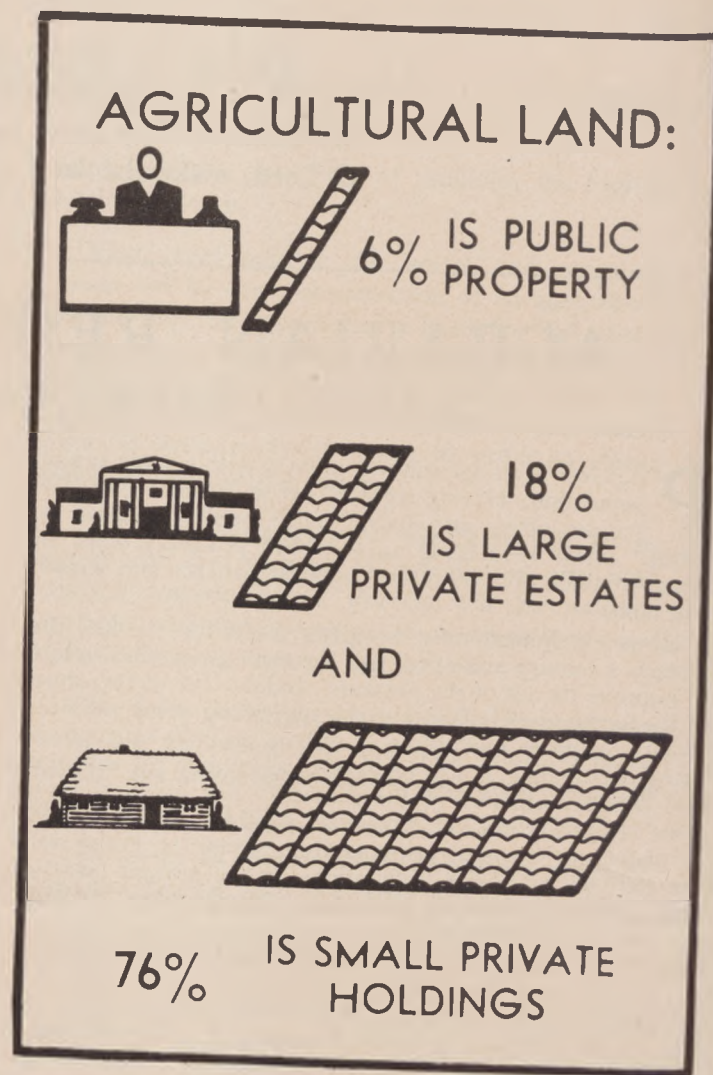
If we take into account only arable land, the percentage of small holdings is even more striking. Of 25,589,000 hectares of arable land, 76.3% consisted of holdings of less than 50 hectares, holdings of 50 hectares or more formed only 18% of the total, the remaining 5.7% was roads, etc.

From 1919 to 1937 a total of 6,339,000 acres of large estates were parcelled out, creating 696,400 farm lots.

## ABOLISHING SERVITUDES

Under Russian rule so-called "servitudes" or labor exacted from peasants in exchange for the use of the manor house's pasture lands and fuel from its forests, hampered the development of agriculture for both landowners and peasants. These privileges were abolished in those parts of Poland held by Austria and Prussia. Yet in 1918 Poland inherited more than 300,000 such inflammable points, making agricultural progress more difficult.

As early as May 7, 1920, a law was passed abolishing



servitudes and on April 7, 1922, new regulations were introduced. Several days later this law was revised and reissued as a Presidential decree on February 1, 1927. Servitudes were abolished with advantage to the small farmer. Between 1919 and 1937 the abolition of servitudes affected 272,900 peasant holdings; in compensation for their pasturage, fuel and other privileges, the peasants received 588,900 hectares of land and 3,796,200 zlotys in cash.

## RECLAMATION OF WASTELAND

In 1918 Poland had great expanses of wasteland and swamps, including the famous Pripet Marshes.

At first the reclamation of poor land was carried out by old-fashioned methods, which proved totally inadequate. On February 15, 1928 a Presidential decree was issued creating an office for the reclamation of Polesie. On March 22, 1928, a special law was passed, one of its provisions exonerating reclaimed lands from taxes, as the State wished to encourage the owners of wastelands to carry out the reclamation of their areas.

Between 1919 and 1937, 1,128,500 acres of land were reclaimed, while the work of regulating rivers, building canals, etc., was carried out over an area of 9,240 miles.

## CONSOLIDATING AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS

A real hardship from which most peasants suffered in Poland was the "checker board" holding of land not in one

piece but in many patches, one peasant holding sometimes reaching the fantastic total of 100 or 120 lots.

The "checker board" was less felt in the west, where 90 per cent of the farmers held their land in one to three pieces. The average for Galicia was five pieces, with many much higher. These checker board patches were often of peculiar shape, an extreme instance being one 2,110 feet long and 10 feet wide.

Villages consolidating their holdings received aid in the shape of tax reductions, credits, etc.—hence the consolidating movement grew apace. From 1919 to 1937, consolidation was carried out on 768,700 holdings, with a total area of 12,500,000 acres.

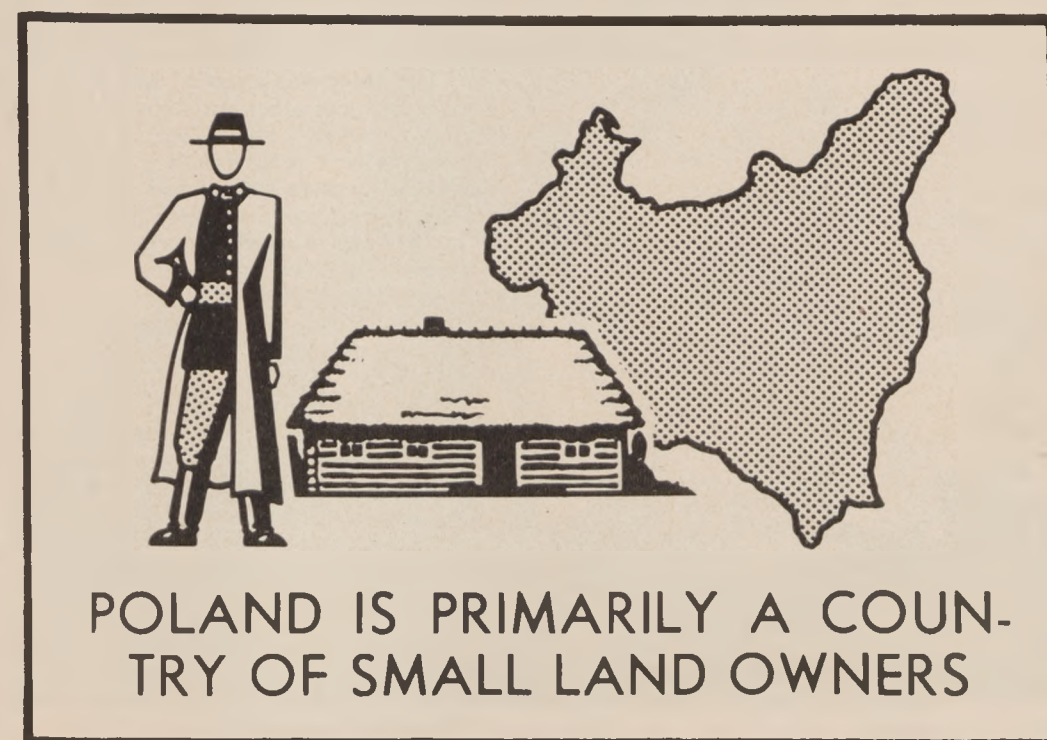
## AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Agricultural training in Russian-held Poland was extremely poor. In all this area, covering close to two-thirds of Poland, there was not a single state agricultural school.

The first farming school for peasants' sons was privately endowed in Pszczelina near Warsaw and the first farming school for girls in Kruszynek near Wloclawek. Only after 1905 when the Czar's rule became milder, did a few agricultural schools for boys and girls arise, but only in the Congress Kingdom and out of public generosity, as the schools in Bratno and Golotczyzna.

These became a kind of people's university, trained the pioneers of agricultural progress in the villages, and provided leaders for all types of rural organizations and cooperatives, as well as forming future leaders of the peasant movement in this section of Poland.

The reborn Polish State, appreciating the value of agricultural training, established the principle that in every county there must be at least one elementary agricultural school for boys and one for girls, to which would be admitted only graduates of primary schools. Although this plan was only partially realized, there were in 1935 no less than 145 elementary agricultural training schools in Poland.



Summarizing the figures for 1919-1937: 6,339,000 acres were parcelled to create 696,400 lots; 1,472,250 acres were received from the liquidation of servitudes for 272,900 new homesteads; 1,128,500 acres were reclaimed and made into 100,000 homesteads; 12,500,000 acres were consolidated, affecting 768,700 homesteads. A total of 21,439,750 acres and 1,800,000 homesteads felt the beneficial effects of Poland's program of agrarian reform. As the total area of arable land in Poland did not exceed 63,972,500 acres and the number of all homesteads was close to 4,000,000, agriculture reform in Poland embraced a third of the arable land and almost half of the existing homesteads. This may not seem much in relation to the needs of the tremendously overpopulated Polish villages. The reform of Poland's agrarian system can give the right results only if it is coupled with large scale industrialization, which calls for a large outlay of capital. Poland never was able to obtain this capital. Unfortunately the Western democracies and the United States preferred to sink billions in Germany rather than help Poland raise her level of economic development.

Can Poland be regarded as a country of large landholders? The best answer to this is that in 1939 the large landholders owned 18% of the arable land in Poland, whereas in England 68% of the land is in the hands of large landholders.

Simultaneously with the reform of the agrarian system, the participation of peasants in the social, political and literary life of Poland began to make itself felt. Even before the last war, there was a peasant group in the Austrian Parliament. One of them, Wincenty Witos, was later several times Prime Minister of independent Poland.

In free Poland there were thousands of agricultural clubs, cooperatives, fire departments, etc., run by the peasants.

The peasant's voice was often decisive in the village, county and province administration. For instance, the present Prime Minister Mikolajczyk had great influence on the course of events in the communal self-government of Poznan.

Peasant literature which started with the publication of Jakub Bojka's "Two Souls," boasted a galaxy of outstanding peasant writers and exerted an increasing influence on public opinion in Poland.

Two of free Poland's three Presidents were peasants: Professor Narutowicz of the *Wyzwolenie* Party and Professor Wojciechowski of the *Piast* Party. Indeed the influence of peasants in politics was growing so fast that they bid fair to get control of the government. And were it not for the German invasion, the Polish Peasant Party together with other democratic Polish groupings would probably now be at the head of the Polish State. In any event, there is no doubt that in liberated Poland, the peasants who constitute 65% of the population will have a deciding voice.



# THE POLISH CRUISER "DRAGON" IN THE INVASION

POLISH warships, among them the heavy cruiser *Dragon*, are taking part in the invasion of Normandy. Their work with the British navy began long before D-Day. They have convoyed transports and supply ships across the Channel. They have, in addition, patrolled the seas around France and England, and with their naval guns have covered the Allied beach-heads.

One of the sailors stationed on the *Dragon* who was on duty during the first few days of the invasion, gives the following account of the attack on Hitler's Fortress Europe.

"We were part of the mightiest armada that was ever assembled. We were ready days before the invasion began. The day before D-Day, however, we were disappointed. Bad weather, poor visibility and stormy waters in the channel disrupted our plans. For 24 hours we cruised about, patrolling waters around the invasion transports that were loaded and waiting for a break in the weather.

"I finished my watch at 2 a.m., and immediately went to my bunk. I knew there wasn't much time for rest before D-Day would begin. I had hardly had time to doze off when, fifteen minutes later, the expected alarm came. Somehow I found myself, still half asleep, in the wheelhouse. As the junior officer in charge of replacements during action, my orders were to remain there no matter what happened. I wanted to be on the bridge where I could watch the beginning of the invasion. As for safety, there is no such thing on a warship. The best place in the winter is the warm engine room, while in summer, it is the open deck.

"We were already approaching the French coast, but had not yet met with any opposition either from the air or from German subs. Our own ships were the only ones in the Channel. We made bets about how much the Germans knew



His megaphone has shrapnel holes but it still serves the purpose.

of our plans and how they would fight. Morale on our ship couldn't have been better. Our spirit and will to fight were extraordinarily high.

"The forest of masts formed by our ships moved ever forward. The invasion barges were in the middle of the immense convoy, protected on all sides by Allied warships. As we neared shore, our danger increased. Out of curiosity I glanced out on deck. I rather expected a reprimand from our second in command, who gave me a funny look, but knowing that I used to be a reporter, he didn't say anything.

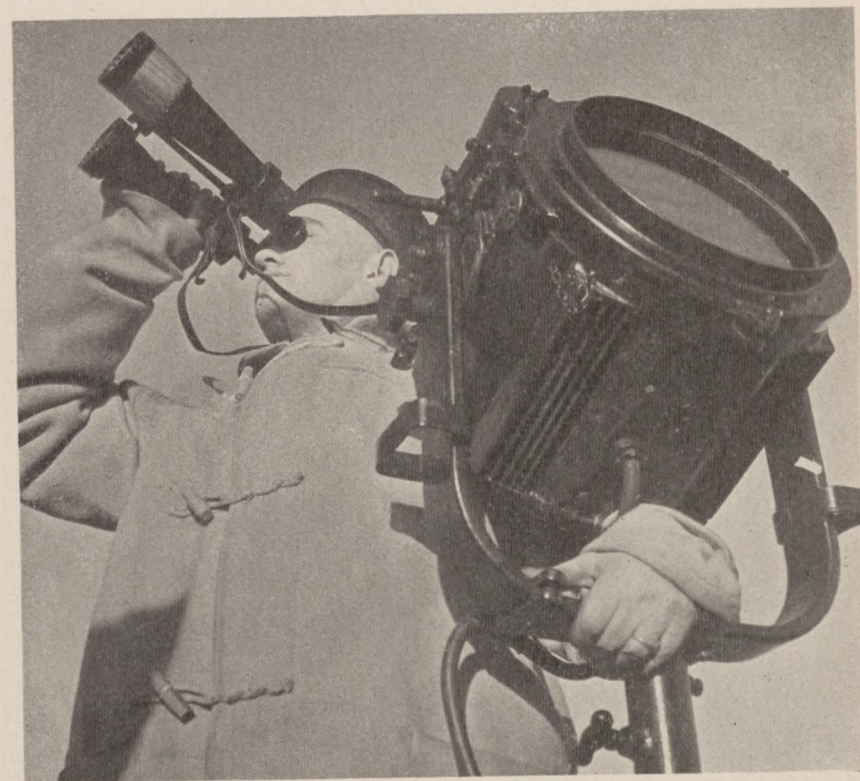
"The shore was crowded with cruisers, destroyers and other warships as well as landing barges. Big Allied naval guns raked the beach, clearing it of the enemy. Not one German battery had yet replied. They were taken completely by surprise. Our landings were completely successful. Nevertheless, enemy guns gradually opened fire. Pillars of water soon rose from artillery shells falling about our ships. We began circling, maneuvering out of range. The fight had begun.

"Our guns went into action. Salvo after salvo was fired at the enemy's hidden shore batteries. Our artillery observer on shore reported through his 'walkie-talkie' that the German battery endangering landings on our sector of the beach was wiped out. Now our barges could go in unopposed. Our second in command informed us over the ship's announcer system that the British flagship had seen and praised our work, the way we carried out all orders to the letter. 'Well done' was part of its message.

"The enemy, however, was vigilant. As we maneuvered to another position, enemy shells began falling all around—their range was getting too close for comfort. We changed speed and shifted our course sharply. Our own gun range was not great enough to hit the enemy. The next shell fell but a scant 10 yards astern. Flying splinters wounded three of our men. One was hit in the arm. He was taken to sick bay, while the other two, after first aid treatment, remained at their posts.

"All that first day, the invasion went according to schedule without a single hitch in plans. As night fell, fatigue grew on the smoke and powder begrimed faces of our sailors, and eyes were bloodshot from lack of sleep. At sunset we heard the sound of fighting already some distance inland. Clouds of smoke showed us how rapidly Allied infantry was advancing. Allied planes formed a vast protective umbrella over the ground forces as well as over our ships. We anchored for the night in a bay that just 24 hours previously had sheltered German motor torpedo boats.

"Another squadron of Spitfires passed overhead followed by a veritable cloud of bombers. Never had we seen such concentration of air power. There was a seemingly endless chain of twin- and four-motored transports and gliders bearing British paratroops to reinforce the beach-head. This display of Allied might must have overawed the enemy, for at first not a single German



On the look-out for enemy aircraft.

ack-ack was in action. Not until the powerful aerial armada had all but passed did they open fire. Tracer bullets spun thin threads of light in the darkening sky, but few seemed to find their mark. One transport glided to earth in flames. Two parachutes opened. The plane itself disappeared behind some houses in a nearby village. Another, a four-motored transport, caught fire and fell into the channel.

"I went to the wheel house and lay down on the floor dead tired. But those transports kept coming into my mind.

"Sea watch, on duty!" came the command over our loud-speaker system. I made for my place at the helm. Night had already fallen. I heard a plane astern, but paid no attention. The protracted absence of the Luftwaffe had made us less wary than usual. On top of that we were just changing watch. Visibility was poor, because of smoke-screens. The twin-engined plane came in at a height of some 150 feet. It almost hit our mast, but a sharp bank saved it. The pilot was as surprised as we were. He released his bombs off our port side. In a few minutes three more delayed-action bombs exploded. Each time the *Dragon* shook from stem to stern. At that same moment ack-acks and pom-pom guns from our ships opened fire on the Junkers 88. The plane disappeared in the darkness and the clouds. Although the alert continued throughout the night, no more enemy planes came over.

"The second and third days of the invasion passed the same way. We were all at battle stations and our bombardment of the coast continued. Only a few enemy planes, pursuit ships, were seen, and even these did not come within firing range. From time to time German shore batteries

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A Polish gunner goes into action with his Lewis gun.



The Polish cruiser *Dragon*.



# POLISH CITIES AGAIN SAW THE HORROR OF WAR



Wilno—Northeastern center of Polish culture—"Dear to the heart of every Pole."



The Cathedral of St. John in Warsaw, where the King of Poland swore allegiance to the Constitution of the Third of May, 1791.



Modern Warsaw: Naval Headquarters Building.



The Cemetery of the Defenders of Lwow is guarded by two lions. The shields (Lwow coat-of-arms at left and the Polish White Eagle at right) bear the inscription "Always Faithful—To Thee, Poland."



A pre-war Warsaw scene. A guard of honor escorts the American Ambassador home following his presentation of credentials to the President of the Polish Republic.



# Notable Scientific Achievement of a Polish Scholar in Exile

by ZYGMUNT EPSTEIN

WITH the outbreak of the war all scientific activity in Poland came to a standstill. Polish Universities were closed, their libraries looted, their professors taken to concentration camps or murdered out of hand. Only very few were able to escape and to continue their scientific work abroad, thanks to American and British assistance. Among them was Prof. Raphael Taubenschlag who, aided by the Rockefeller Foundation, by Prof. Johnson, Director of the New School and by that eminent scholar, Prof. William Linn Westermann, was able to come to the United States, after spending a year in France where he lectured at the University of Aix en Provence. Upon his arrival here, he was immediately offered a professorship at the New School and later at Columbia University. Thus, assured of favorable working conditions, Prof. Taubenschlag was able to continue his life-long studies and to publish his work on papyrology.\*

Towards the close of the last century scholars began to search all over Egypt for "papyri," that is for documents written in the Egyptian, Greek and Latin languages on sheets made from the leaves of the papyrus plant that grows on the banks of the Nile.

Many papyri were found in desert sand drifts in a perfect state of preservation owing to the dry climate; others were discovered in tombs where they had served as wrappings for mummies.

Those papyri, covering a thousand years from the time of Alexander the Great to the conquest of Egypt by the Arabs, when recovered and restored were deciphered by experts working tirelessly for years on end. The result was worth the effort, for the texts disclosed an unexpected wealth of information on the various phases of Egyptian life, private and public, education, religious cults, folklore, administration, law, etc. An entirely new branch of study called papyrology developed and, because its scope was so broad, aroused the interest not only of philologists but of students of law and civilization as well. Among the latter was Professor Taubenschlag.

He began to study papyrology under the guidance of Prof. Ludwik Mittels, the first man to become interested in the laws of ancient Egypt. Prof. Taubenschlag's first book on the subject "Courts of Arbitration in Egypt," was written on Prof. Mittels' initiative as early as 1907. He then decided to prepare a comprehensive presentation of the system of laws of ancient Egypt. By way of preparation for this undertaking, he wrote monographs on various aspects of the subject, publishing some 40 such monographs and essays from 1907 to 1941.

This preliminary work was essential before he could proceed with his comprehensive review of the laws of ancient Egypt. Begun while Prof Taubenschlag was in exile in France, this great work has now been completed in the United States.

The book consists of four sections arranged as follows: 1. Relationship between Egyptian, Greek and Roman law; 2.

Egyptian civil law, including the law on persons, substantive law, and law on contracts; 3. Penal law; 4. Legal procedure and execution of judgments.

The first chapter gives a very interesting and vivid picture of the relationship and mutual influence of the laws of Egypt, Greece and Rome. It is important not only for students of law, but just as much if not more so for students of the history of culture. It shows how the legal system of the invaders,—first Greeks then Romans—overwhelmed the native Egyptian culture and how desperately the latter fought against the tide of alien ideology. The tragedy of a country conquered by ruthless oppressors, as presented by Prof. Taubenschlag, is reminiscent of Poland's own struggle for the preservation of our then legal system during the time of the partitions.

The subsequent chapters deal with the legal provisions covering corporate and natural persons as well as slaves, which latter issue is very exhaustively treated. Next comes matrimonial law, parental authority, guardianship, ownership, easements as well as obligations of various nature. The chapter on penal laws deals with the organization of courts, civil and criminal procedure and the execution of judgments.

The present day jurist is perforce amazed, when perusing Taubenschlag's book by the similarity between the mechanics of life in ancient time and in our day. Title records, wills, notarial acts, conveyances, contracts of purchase and sale leases, have almost the same form as today. Even the execution of judgments and writs containing executive clauses hardly differ from modern procedure.

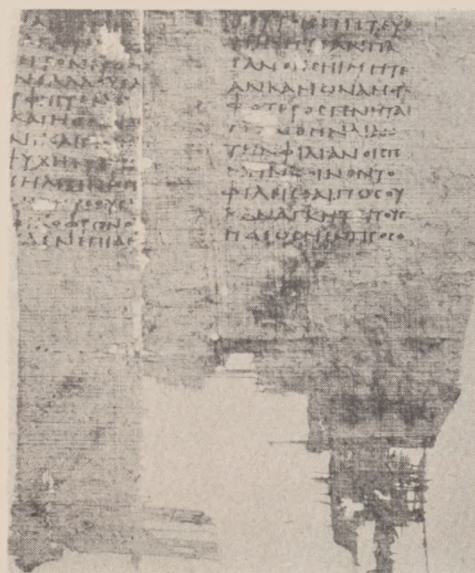
Scientists who up to now have engaged in similar studies, such as Prof. Rabel of the University of Michigan and Prof. Berger of New York, agree in the "Bulletin of Jurisprudence" published through the efforts of the Association of Polish Jurists in the U. S. A., (no. 9 of June 1, 1944) that Prof. Taubenschlag's work is bound to inaugurate a new era in papyrology.

In a lecture, reprinted recently in "The Quarterly Bulletin of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America" (April, 1944), Prof. Rabel summed up his opinion as follows: "There are in this country excellent philologists, historians, Egyptologists and papyrologists. Raphael Taubenschlag's just appearing admirable compendium has flung wide open the gate to legal papyrology. I should think the future of papyrology may easily center in America. Nothing would help more in the promotion of comparative legal history."

That a Polish scientist is considered as a pioneer in a new field of science, is no small compliment to Poland and Polish learning.

For years past, Professor Taubenschlag has enjoyed the reputation of being a pioneer in this particular branch of learning, a reputation which has met with universal concurrence. The world of science, including representatives of sixteen different countries, gave proof in 1933 of the high esteem in which Prof. Taubenschlag is held by electing him chairman of an international congress at Rome, commemorating the 1,400th anniversary of the publication of the world's greatest code of laws, the "Corpus Juris Civiles." On that

(Please turn to page 15)



Fragment of *Symposium* by Xenophon, ancient Greek historian.

\*"The Law of Greco-Roman Egypt in the Light of the Papyri, 332 B.C.-640 A.D." By Raphael Taubenschlag, New York, Herald Square Press, Inc., 1944, pp. 15 and 488.



# WITH THE POLISH TANK CORPS IN ITALY

by ANDRZEJ HALEDA



Giving radio instructions.

I'D like to present Lucifer. Don't let the name scare you. Lucifer is only my tank. I named it that because of what it does to the Germans. All the tanks in my division have names beginning with L.: Lucifer, Lavina, Lampart, etc.

Our first assignment was to take sappers to a front line sector and to cover them while they located and cleared mine-fields. They walked ahead of us, smiling, and loaded down with their paraphernalia. We started out, following them closely, around 10 in the morning. Behind us we left the fragrance and beauty of summer in Italy. We moved forward

slowly. They walked along holding their detectors, digging out land-mines. Two of them marked and cleared a path with white tape. Lucifer followed this tape closely.

The Germans lurked somewhere ahead, but not a single movement betrayed their exact positions. It was so quiet, so warm and pleasant. Larks sang overhead. Yet, behind all this serenity there was grave danger from German divisions concealed along the mountain slopes. After we had advanced some two miles, a German mortar opened fire on us. Dust clouds rose before our tanks and some of our sappers fell. Nevertheless, hugging the ground, they continued their advance. They didn't take shelter behind our tanks until German machine-guns joined the mortar. We covered them with our own machine-guns. Our assignment accomplished, we retreated. I reported to headquarters that we had carried out orders to the letter, a path had been cleared and marked through the mine-field.

Around noon an artillery duel developed. The din was enough to drive one crazy. Especially since I was still more or less of a rookie. I decided to talk it over with a veteran. "What are they shooting at?" I asked one of our sharpshooters, an older man. "They're answering our own fire. Look, sir, how they pound those enemy-held villages!"

"Good, but the Germans are firing well, too!"

"Yes, they're trying to feel out the location of our mortars."

"Well, do you think there's much chance of us in the armored divisions being hurt?"

"Now you're talking like a layman. After all, those mortar shells aren't going to ask you what branch of the service you're in before hitting you. You just have to take to the fox-holes."

"How can I tell in all this din just when a German shell is coming over?"

"Sir, in war, you must be on your toes all the time. When there's an explosion behind us stand still. That will be our own artillery. But when you hear the whistle of shells in front of you, duck into the nearest hole, for that'll be enemy shots. You'll learn to distinguish them by the sound they make. I was a rookie myself just like you at Tobruk."

In the evening, dead tired, I went to sleep. For the past several nights we hadn't had much sleep.

Around three the next afternoon, under cover of terrific fire from our artillery, our tanks advanced to attack the Germans. We observed their maneuvers through field-glasses. Their tanks, scattered over the flat terrain of the valley, slowly moved to the attack. Young trees and small peasant huts fell, crushed before their armored might.

The Germans opened fire. The roar of guns was mixed with the explosions of grenades and clatter of machine-guns. The attack continued into evening and even after night had fallen. On our left wing a huge pillar of fire lit up the field of action. Around midnight, I was ordered to carry food supplies to the crews of some immobilized tanks. We moved slowly over the unfamiliar terrain. We found our tanks in a most advanced position.

Then, suddenly, both sides ceased fire. Darkness and silence descended over the battlefield. The only light came from the burning German tank on our left.

We had hardly slept an hour when the noise of exploding grenades shook up into action. One went off so near that the concussion broke lamp bulbs in our tank. After the noise

• (Please turn to page 14)



Polish Wacs visit their compatriots at a tank refueling station on the Italian front.



# THE SOLDIERS' PRESS ON THE ITALIAN FRONT

by ZDZISLAW BAU

THE Polish Second Corps in Italy now has its own daily newspaper. The first issue of *The Daily for the Polish Army in Italy* appeared on the 25th of March. It is printed in a small mountainside village not far from the front, so that delivery is easy. Since sales depend on the weather at the front, its editor can be found daily peering anxiously at the sky and humming "O Sole Mio."

The daily is published in an Italian printshop taken over by the army. There has been no time yet to get a Polish linotype from Egypt, so it is still set entirely by hand. Compositors are soldiers from the Field Press Shop. A few are veteran printers. Some even helped publish the first number of *The White Eagle* in Buzuluk, Russia.

Editor-in-chief is the well-known Cracow journalist, Dr. Ludwik R. Several former Warsaw newspapermen assist him in the editorial department. The kibitzer is the popular lieutenant Wacław S., former parliamentary reporter of the Polish Telegraph Agency. Now he is head of military press headquarters. This latter organization is so well managed that whenever a new war correspondent arrives on the front, he is greeted with a bottle of fine old Scotch dug up somewhere.

As all journalists, the editors of this Polish soldiers' daily have their own cafe meeting place, one formerly called the Cafe Adua. It is a coffee house where one can find real coffee, something that has been non-existent in Italy for many a long year. In the afternoon an Italian orchestra plays there. The most popular melody is of course "Lili Marleen," a song adopted by the 8th Army from German prisoners taken in Africa. A young poet of the Carpathian Division has written a Polish verse to the melody.

*The Daily for the Polish Army in Italy* is the sixth military newspaper to appear on the Allied side of the Italian Front. The Germans have one, *Die Südfront*, one of their usual propaganda sheets. It is fond of printing quotations from Nietzsche, stating that life is worthwhile only when one can die for the fatherland.

The older Allied papers are the *Eighth Army News*, similar in format to the London *Daily Mirror*. It is most independent, often criticizing the government, Parliament, etc. Each number carries many illustrations as well as letters to the editor in which its soldier-readers complain of many things, mainly of poor quality cigarettes, low pay, old motion pictures, not enough furloughs to England, etc. Thanks to this column, the *News* is a real tribunal of the soldiers. All stories coming from England of General Montgomery, their former commander, are front page news. His soldiers cannot forget their leader who brought them through so many victories. The *Union Jack* is similar to the *Eighth Army News*. It is distributed among troops behind the front-lines in Sicily and in French North Africa.

Canadian soldiers publish their own daily, the *Maple Leaf*. It is well written and edited, carries long stories of front-line action, and lists the names of all soldiers decorated for bravery, or who have performed some outstanding deed.

The largest of these military newspapers is the *Stars and Stripes* of the American Fifth Army, which is published in Naples. It has its own war correspondents and photographers. Not long ago these reporters and camera-men visited the Polish Second Corps to gather material for a special number devoted to the Polish Army. The *Stars and Stripes* of the Italian front is but one of a series of editions of this paper published in every theatre of war: Great Britain, India, the Pacific, Egypt and North Africa. Among other things the Italian edition has a column that teaches the language of the

## EIGHTH ARMY NEWS

No. 140, Vol. 3

WEDNESDAY, 8th MARCH, 1944

ITALY

## UNION JACK

Wednesday, April 12, 1944  
No. 88 Two Lire

FOR THE BRITISH FIGHTING FORCES

### Stop Press

The R.E.C. reported yesterday that the R.A.F. dropped a record load of 1,000 tons of bombs in their raid on France and Belgium on Monday night.

FOR CANADIAN TROOPS IN ACTION



## THE MAPLE LEAF

(WITH CANADIAN PRESS NEWS SERVICE)

Vol. 1, No. 72

ITALY EDITION

Friday, March 10, 1944

## DZIENNIK ŻOŁNIERZA

WYDANIE POŁOWE

## APW

Nr 1. Rok II.

„Z ziemi włoskiej do Polski”

25 marca 1944.

Mastheads of Allied military newspapers published on the Italian front.

country to American soldiers. The results of its lessons bring smiles to the faces of Italians.

There is still another newspaper on the Italian Front, *Front Post*, printed by the Allies for distribution among German soldiers. It is scattered from airplanes over German lines. Many prisoners ask for it, saying it was their only source of true information.

### UNDAUNTED EAGLES

Large white eagles spread their wings  
O'er a darkened Nazi sky,  
Their course was straight, their wings were strong,  
Their spirits soaring high.  
They dropped their bombs on the greedy land  
On the ruthless German horde;  
And a message they sent with great content  
To the fiendish German lord.

You have spread your waste and destruction,  
Now, what are your aims and goals?  
You have tried to crush our people,  
But you never will crush the Poles.

You have plundered and burned our cities,  
Our country has suffered long,  
But our spirit you never have conquered,  
And our faith remains as strong.

Go chain yourselves in bondage,  
For you never shall quell our might,  
Our Lady of Czestochowa  
Has given no power to fight.

Long after your country's diminished,  
And your people shall ask to forgive,  
The world will be cleansed of your terror  
That freedom and Poland may live.

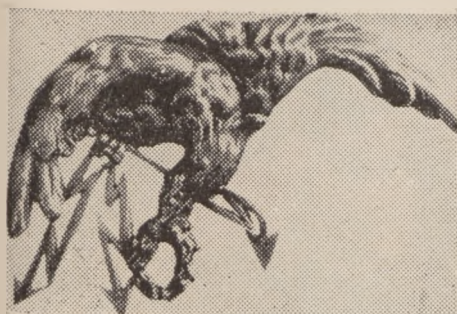
Tired white eagles spread their wings  
And returned to the British shore  
Bullet drilled and badly battered,  
Courage greater than before.  
Some of their comrades had fallen,  
But they of the Eagles, knew  
They had died for a country's freedom  
These Polish hearts so true.

—Alice Demers, Montreal, Canada



# "CONDITIONS FOR REST ARE IDEAL" \*

by LT. J. M. HERBERT



THE moving of our squadron from Bomber Command to Coastal Command was not a demotion; it meant a chance for us to rest. After every two days of operational flights we rested the two following days, which meant that

we had training flights, tests with fresh crews and such routine work. And of course, we did not fly at night. Compared with bombing operations over the Continent, service with Coastal Command may be considered a job for convalescents. We needed the change. The last luckless month cost us a number of crews either killed, missing or wounded in action; we were rather depressed by these losses and exhausted by strain.

Conditions for rest are ideal. Within ten miles there are literally no amusements of any sort, no pub, or dance hall or cinema; we are fourteen miles away from the nearest railway station and from the village which has all the above-mentioned civilized institutions; fourteen miles along a winding, narrow road, going steeply either uphill or down, bordered by high hedges on both sides. The British drive along these canyons at the rate of sixty miles per hour, smashing at irregular intervals either the cars, themselves or their passengers. Communication by rail is much slower; the local trains in the direction of London stop at every little station and crawl slowly. Not a single one of them is direct, and you have to change at out-of-the-way stations at unearthly hours. You cannot get food at the stations and there is no restaurant car on the train. In one word, it is an idyll; a railway idyll from the end of the last century.

Zygmunt, who is usually rather inclined to pessimism, is pleased with our seclusion, for, as he says, "no brass hats nor similar fifth column representatives can get here and we have peace at least."

We live in huts of corrugated iron, eight men to one hut. We have spring beds, one for each man; rather strange-looking chests instead of cupboards for our belongings, one for two men; and something which looks like an enamel spittoon and is supposed to be a wash basin, one for four men. There is only one iron stove for the eight of us. The stove looks rather suspicious, its dimensions are suited to a doll's house and I don't think it is possible to light it. But meanwhile it is still summer, and Zygmunt assures us that it is warmer here in winter than in summer.

There are hellish draughts

\* From *G—For Genevieve*. By Lt. J. M. Herbert, Roy Publishers, New York, 1944; pp. 254. \$2.50.

in these huts. When it rains—and it does so three or four times a day—the water drips on the pillows and our things never get dry, for the ground is as damp as it is in a brick kiln.

But the airfield is as vast as a prairie. It has been built for the Americans and their Flying Fortresses or even bigger machines; the runways are, to quote Pryszczyk, "respectfully yours," for a mile and a half. Even if you don't like it, take off you must, for there is so much run. In addition, the airfield and the whole station are on a tip of land, on a point which goes out far into the sea, high, steep, with banks suddenly ending in cliffs a hundred yards high, at the bottom of which there whirls and roars the swell of the ocean. Each runway abuts on to this precipice.

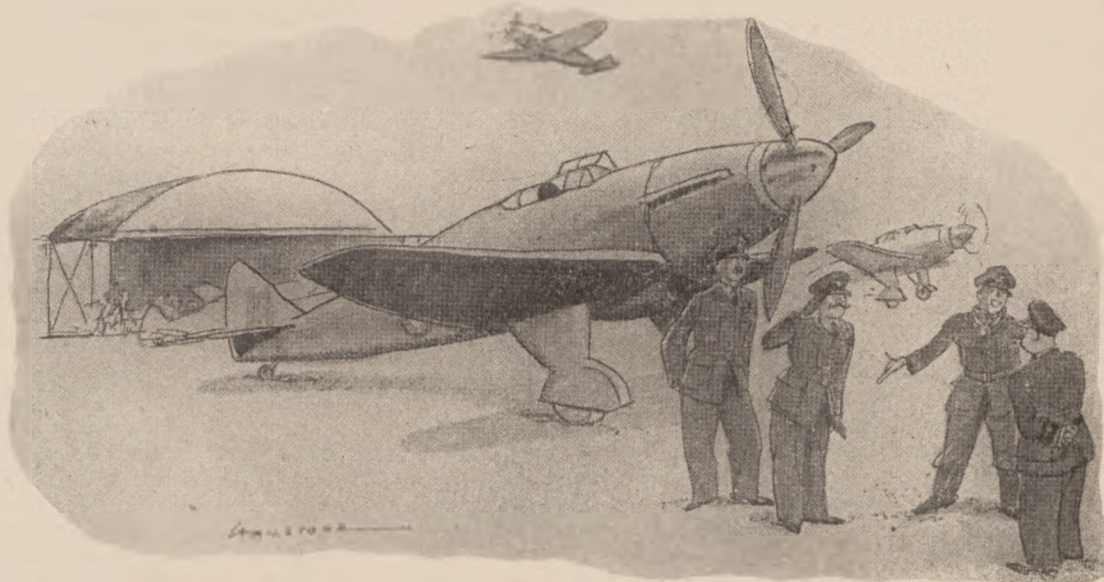
What is more important is the fact that over the hut of the station commander there flies only a single, lonely Air Force flag. The POLISH flag.

We are alone here. We are at home. In a POLISH station. A POLE is the station commander. The orders are issued in Polish; the instructions on the boards are in Polish (but with an English translation for the few men of the ground crew). The cook, however, is British and poisons us at mess with the strange dishes invented by the English to spoil the best food products in the world.

Another important thing is that in this new station we are at once successful in our new daylight work. Before us, a British squadron was stationed here for fourteen months hunting German submarines without notable results. And we, at the end of a few weeks, have two certain ones and several probables to our credit. We are in luck.

I think we are in luck, but Zygmunt thinks that it is the British who were out of luck. Our padre thinks of course that a saint (whose name I don't remember) meddles in these affairs. In our Air Force headquarters they probably think: "A good squadron, the boys are trying hard, so they have sunk a few Germans." The Intelligence Officer suspects us of having an arrangement with the Germans by which we are the only ones who are allowed to sink them. I cannot say what Pryszczyk thinks for it is unprintable.

The important thing is that we have given the Germans plenty to drink; that they have drunk themselves to death, and not with beer!



"This is Lieut. Sienkiewicz, Sir; we call him Smith to distinguish him from his friend Krzyzanowski, who's known as Jones." ("PUNCH," LONDON)



# POLISH WACS VISIT THE WEST COAST

SINCE their arrival in New York on February 17, 1944, for a good will tour of the United States, the six Polish Wacs (Pestki) have won the affection of everyone they came in contact with. Having come to this country as guests of the American WAC, they have visited Wac and Wave training centers throughout the United States, taken a five-week training course in the First WAC Training Center at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, and spoken at recruiting rallies for the WAC. The Pestki were received at the White House, attended a luncheon held in their honor by Congress, and were the guests of such civilian organizations as the War Fund and the American Red Cross. Women's Clubs and the mayors of many cities invited them to speak for Poland at special receptions. Not only have the Pestki held numerous press conferences, but they spoke over the radio to Americans and by short wave to Poland close to fifty times.

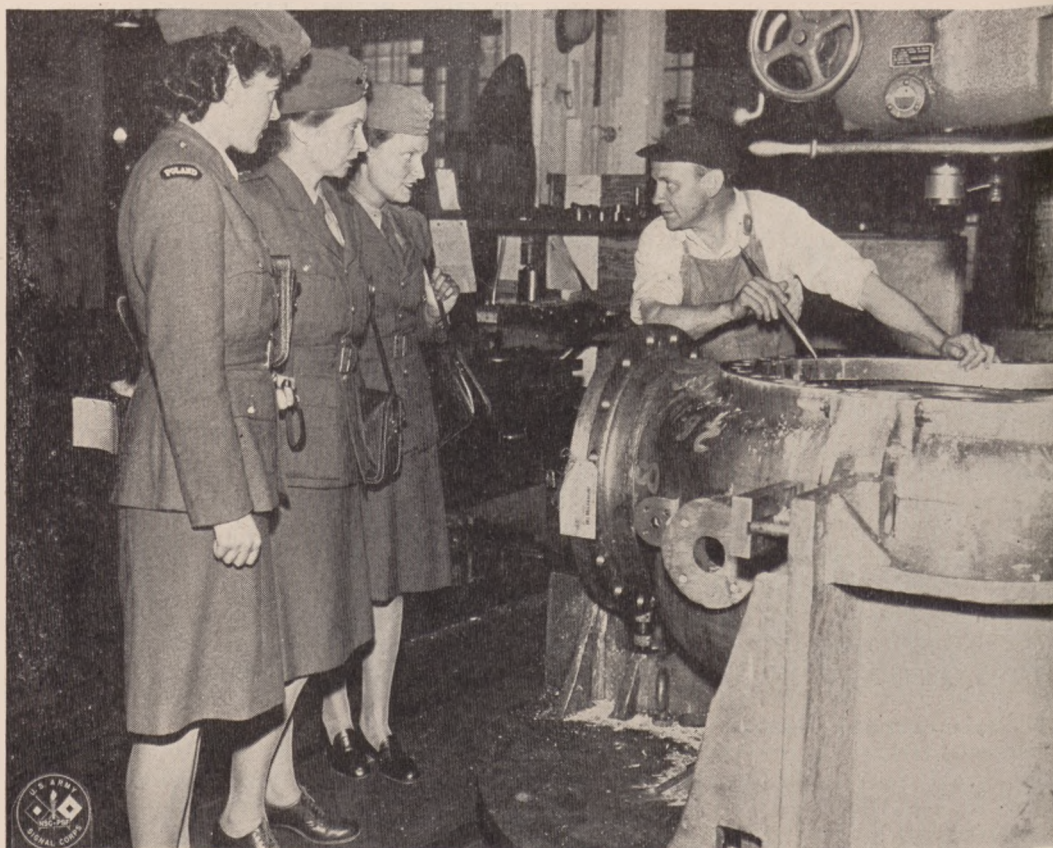
Following a visit to Eastern and Middle Western cities, three of the Polish Wacs went to the West Coast where they inspected defense plants such as Lockheed Aircraft and Kaiser Shipyards. In the latter they addressed 53,000 workers during the workers' lunch period.

In the course of their stay in Los Angeles, the Pestki attended a banquet tendered to them by the Friends of Poland. Mrs. Willoughby Rodman was chairman and the speakers included Don Wilson, radio commentator; John S. Thomson, acting president of the Friends of Poland; Lt. Seton of the American WAC; Alan Mowbray and Marsha Hunt, film stars. Gene Lockhart, member of the moving picture colony acted as Master of Ceremonies and interviewed the three Pestki. Mayor Fletcher Bowron of Los Angeles addressed the gathering as follows:

"These three young ladies, members of the Polish Women's Army, have been in Los Angeles long enough to know that they are welcome, without being told in any formal or official manner. They must have sensed the sincere and warm feeling of the American People, and those of Southern California, particularly, for the Polish people. They have sensed the admiration for the valiant manner in which the spirit of Poland has carried on the fight after their land was overrun in the first mad sweep of a modern, mechanized army directed by the mad, intuitive corporal, whose days, even in his own country, are now very clearly numbered. For all we know, the career of this man, the personification of destruction and murder, who has been responsible for more deaths and greater sorrow than anyone who ever lived, may tonight have been entirely ended.

"And our salute to the women of Poland! They have worked and struggled underground in their own country and in various lands for the liberation of their beloved country and its eventual complete independence and freedom.

"I have had an opportunity to talk with these three young ladies of the Polish Women's Army and have learned from them that the activities in support of the Polish military



Polish Wacs talk with a defense worker during their visit to Joshua Hendy Ironworks in California.  
Left to right: Private Opolska, Captain Grodzka and Corporal Kos.

*U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo*

forces in each instance actually began far from their homeland. Two of them started their military service in Russia, where they were taken with members of their families following the invasion, first by Hitler's hordes and then the Soviet armies; and one young lady from far off Japan. It is well for her that she left when she did, before the Nippon Isle feels the force of pent-up wrath of the armed forces of the United States.

"Poland could have sent no better representatives than these charming young ladies who, I am sure, truly represent the spirit of determination of the Polish people, and also give us an idea of the fine qualities, the refinement, the culture of the Polish race. We are glad to welcome them to Los Angeles, and when they leave, they will take with them the message of the people of this area to the Polish people, wherever they may be—a message of encouragement and a solemn promise that everything that can be done will be done to set Poland free and keep free.

"Captain Grodzka, Corporal Kos and Private Opolska carry back to the Polish Government and to the Polish people our greetings and an assurance that we are with them all the way through."

## WITH THE POLISH TANK CORPS IN ITALY (Continued from page 11)

had died down again, we prepared breakfast. We had opened some preserves and were making coffee on our portable stove, but we had hardly begun when new explosions drove us into ditches. The very earth trembled from the grenades. We were soon covered with clods of clay and bits of rock. Both I and my commander who shared my fox-hole turned pale. My throat was so tight with fear that I could hardly swallow.

*(Please turn to page 15)*



# THE POLISH CRUISER "DRAGON" IN THE INVASION

(Continued from page 7)

concealed in the irregular, rocky Norman coast or in fortified farmhouses, answered our fire. We couldn't concentrate fire on these pockets of enemy resistance because our own infantry was already inland, behind them. Particularly one battery gave us trouble, firing directly on our landing barges. We couldn't locate it, but finally, on the third day, our infantry wiped it out. The fire from another one, concealed on a small hill, also raked the beach where our soldiers disembarked. We couldn't at first silence it. Then, word came that it was a mobile unit. We turned all our guns on the little hill. Its cover of trees and shrubs disappeared, but still we couldn't hit the battery. Then we were ordered to fire upon another one. Out of 16 salvos, 13 found their mark. The enemy emplacement was wiped out.

"The German Airforce still offered no strong opposition. From time to time solitary German planes tried to attack

either our ground forces or our anchored ships. However our own planes were always ready and waiting for them. Then, we witnessed battles in which sometimes enemy, sometimes our own planes fell flaming to earth or into the sea. The Germans tried all sorts of tricks. They even resorted to painting their planes with Allied insignia.

"Finally orders came that we were to return to England for refueling and replenishing ammunition supplies. We weighed anchor and slowly steamed toward England. The channel was crowded with boats and ships of all sizes and classes. They bore reinforcements and supplies to France. On the way we picked up four shipwrecked sailors. Then we saw a brightly lit hospital ship. It was a rare sight in English waters. At night we dropped anchor in an English port. It was the 18th of June—just four years to the day after we had been forced to leave France from the port of Coetquidan. We were at last back on the same route—slowly but surely going home at last."

## NOTABLE SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT OF A POLISH SCHOLAR IN EXILE

(Continued from page 10)

occasion he delivered the inaugural address on the Capitol. This selection was rightly considered as a tribute to Polish science so brilliantly represented by him. The Academies of Bologna and Torino elected him to membership. Pope Pius XI showed him great consideration, while the present Pontiff, Pius XII, suggested his election as one of the chairmen of an International Congress to commemorate the publication of Justinian's Code.

Professor Taubenschlag, however, has not confined his scientific work to papyrology, but achieved equally notable success in the field of Assyrian, Roman and mediaeval Polish law.

A fortunate coincidence brought Taubenschlag in contact not only with Professor Wroblewski, an eminent scholar in Roman law, who was the first to note Taubenschlag's brilliant talents, but also with the three leading minds in the field of Polish law: Ulanowski, Bobrzynski, Potkanski, all professors at Cracow University. At their suggestion he began to specialize in this field. Professor Bobrzynski influenced him more than the others, and in turn Taubenschlag was Bobrzynski's devoted admirer. Once in a company of friends, Taubenschlag related how Bobrzynski steered him to the study of Polish civil procedure, penal law and civil law. "You are always saying," Bobrzynski told him on that occasion, "that you idolize me. I am quite willing to believe you, but the best proof would be if you busied yourself with

problems I have thought about, but have not gone into because I did not have your great familiarity with Roman law." Spurred on by these words, Taubenschlag prepared 18 treatises on Polish mediaeval law, among them:

"The origins of the statutes of Casimir the Great," 1928;

"Italian formularies in Poland in the XIIIth century," 1934;

"Mediaeval Penal Law in Poland," 1938;

"History of the reception of Roman law in Poland," 1939.

All of these works have been recognized by experts such as Ketrzynski (Warsaw University), Schmidt (Graz University), Balzer (Lwow University), Abraham (Lwow University), Feldman (Cracow University) as opening up entirely new vistas for Polish scientific endeavor.

Professor Raphael Taubenschlag was born in Przemyśl, Poland, in 1881, and obtained his LL.D. degree at the Jagellonian University at Cracow in 1904. He joined the faculty of law of the University of Cracow in 1913, becoming an assistant professor of Roman law in 1919 and professor in 1920. He was thrice elected dean of the Faculty of Law of the Jagellonian University of Cracow (1922-23, 1929-30, 1934-35). At present he is Research Professor in Ancient Civilization at Columbia University in New York City.

Professor Taubenschlag is Knight-Commander of the Order of *Polonia Restituta*, a member of the Academy of Sciences of Cracow, as well as Bologna and Torino, and the founder and a vice-director of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America.

## WITH THE POLISH TANK CORPS IN ITALY

(Continued from page 14)

Hours later, when the barrage finally ended, we went back to "Lucifer." How impressive that tank appeared—standing untouched, where we had left it. However, its water and oil tanks had been hit by grenade fragments. The motor screen was torn off. Our greatest loss was the breakfast. Well, such is war!

Our third day at the front. By that time I felt like a veteran, so did the other rookie soldiers. To prove it, we walked around without our helmets and didn't duck at every grenade explosion. I had also learned to distinguish enemy shells coming overhead.

The tank division known as "Children of Lwow" pressed the attack against the increasing opposition put up by the Germans. Our tanks had been in action more than 40 hours. Yard by yard they paved the way for our infantry. Orders came for my tank to carry ammunition supplies to the front

lines. We raced through the tree-studded valley toward the little town our forces were attacking. Shells and grenades began falling in our path, but we decided not to close the turret. Driving by periscope, we might have hit some of the British and Indian infantry crouching in the bushes, waiting to attack German lines.

After a while we came out on the flat plain surrounding the little town. Our attacking tanks were scattered over the length and breadth of it. Soon we were supplying them with ammunition, but this was cut short by increased enemy fire. A dip in the terrain prevented me from seeing the exact enemy position, but it also protected us from their fire. English foot soldiers lay in ditches nearby. As German bullets began spraying our tank, we turned about and moved to the shelter of some trees where we left the ammunition. Then, our mission accomplished, we sped back to our base for some much-needed rest.



## **"... There Are No Fighting Men Superior to These Soldiers"**

General Wladyslaw Anders, commander of the Polish Second Corps in Italy, was awarded the American "Legion of Merit." During the ceremonies, which took place on the Piazza di Venezia in Rome on August 1, 1944, General Jacob Devers of the United States Army said:

"Five years less one month have passed since Germany unprovoked threw the crushing weight of her armies across the Polish border.

"That was one of the outstanding acts of treachery which perpetrated the grimmest war in history.

"Casting aside all human consideration, Nazi Germany attempted by sinister means and by overwhelming force to turn back the clock of civilization to the dark ages and to perpetrate upon the world a vaster slavery than ever before known.

"But out of the chaos and carnage of these years, peoples tenacious of existence and endowed with innate courage have emerged to destroy the destroyer.

"They conspired to destroy. They did not lose faith in their destiny.

"The Nazis conspired to destroy the Polish nation mentally, physically and morally. In this design they failed and their failure is due to the fortitude of the Polish people.

"Also there have emerged great leaders, fearless, determined and sagacious.

"The career of the Polish soldier whom we are here to honor might well be the subject of this epic. He led tens of thousands of his people into Persia where he formed and trained an army. He has commanded that army, the Polish Second Corps in Italy. Under his brilliant leadership, it has had notable battle successes wherever it has fought.

"History will record the capture of Monastery Hill. After the fall of Cassino, the Polish Corps captured Piedimonte, then placed on the right flank of the Eighth Army, moved to new victories, capturing Ancona and Senigallia.

"There are no fighting men superior to these soldiers and there are no soldiers who have a more impelling reason, a greater incentive to destroy the enemy.

"Their homeland has been ravished. May it soon again become a free nation taking an important part in the affairs of the world at peace.

"It is a privilege and honor to award to you this 'Legion of Merit' on behalf of the President of the United States."